

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /079 W

-----252224Z 040163 /72

R 251440Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1412

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, FI

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO DELEGATION VISIT TO FINLAND

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 2890, (B) STOCKHOLM 2091

1. AFL-CIO DELEGATION (REFTELS) VISITED HELSINKI MAY 20-22

AS GUEST OF CENTRAL LABOR FEDERATION SAK AND WHITE COLLAR  
FEDERATION TVK. PROGRAM INCLUDED LUNCH HOSTED BY SAK MAY 20,  
DINNER THAT EVENING AT KILJAVA TRAINING CENTER WHERE SAK  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WAS MEETING, AND EMBASSY RECEPTION MAY 21,  
FOLLOWED BY SAK-TVK HOSTED DINNER.

2. AS THIS WAS FIRST AFL-CIO GROUP TO BE HOSTED BY SAK

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SINCE LATTER'S REORGANIZATION IN MERGER OF COMMUNIST AND  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOR FEDERATIONS IN 1969, EMPHASIS WAS  
MORE ON SOCIAL CONTACTS THAN ON SUBSTANTIVE  
DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, VISITORS DID ENGAGE IN LENGTHY  
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF ILO AND OTHER MATTERS  
OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH THEIR HOSTS DURING SOCIAL  
EVENTS AND SIGHTSEEING TOURS.

3. OFFICIAL HOSTS INCLUDED BOTH COMMUNISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN SAK, BUT IN PRACTICE THE ONLY COMMUNIST TO SPEND TIME WITH VISITORS WAS JOHAN VON BONSDORFF, SAK SECOND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY. VON BONSDORFF PARTICIPATED IN AIRPORT WELCOME AND BOTH LUNCH AND DINNER ON 20TH, SPENDING IN ALL SEVERAL HOURS TALKING WITH DELEGATION MEMBERS. OTHER COMMUNISTS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES AND NONE ATTENDED EMBASSY RECEPTION. ACCORDING TO SAK SOURCES, ONLY COMMUNIST TO STATE IN ADVANCE HE WOULD NOT MEET AMERICANS WAS SECOND SECRETARY-GENERAL ELOMAA, WHO LINKED DECISION TO US REFUSAL OF VISA TO FINNISH COMMUNIST METALWORKER THREE YEARS AGO.

4. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, ON OTHER HAND, GAVE VISITORS WARM WELCOME. SAK CHAIRMAN OIVIO HEADED ATTENDANCE AT EMBASSY RECEPTION, WHERE FINNS WERE IN EXPANSIVE MOOD OVER VISIT. DINNER WHICH FOLLOWED WAS OCCASION FOR EXPRESSION OF WARM MUTUAL REGARD BY BOTH SIDES AND HOST PERTTI VIINANEN, SAK SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN, WENT OUT OF WAY TO SAY HE HOPED DELEGATION WOULD RETURN AND SPEND LONGER TIME IN FINLAND.

5. COMMENT: JUDGING ROM REACTIONS OF BOTH DELEGATION MEMBERS AND THEIR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC HOSTS, VISIT WAS USEFUL CONTACT BETWEEN AFL-CIO AND SAK. IT COMPLETED WELL THAT BY ALBERT SHANKER, SUCCESSFULLY PROGRAMMED HERE BY EMBASSY IN APRIL. FINNS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOLD US THEY WOULD WELCOME MORE SUCH VISITS AS CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW AMERICANS, EVEN IF ON SOME MATTERS RESULT IS ONLY AGREEMENT TO DISAGREE. EMBASSY ENDORSES FURTHER SUCH CONTACTS BETWEEN TWO LABOR MOVEMENTS.  
HOUSTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 COPENHAGEN 2890, 77 STOCKHOLM 2091  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, FI, AFL-CIO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009